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Labour brokering sparks heated debate

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Critics have labelled labour brokering a "slave system" that cannot be mended.

The revelations came during a public hearing in Parliament on the issue of labour brokers on Tuesday.

Brokers say they are in favour of the industry being regulated to eliminate the exploitation of workers but unions are digging in their heels.

Roger Ronnie from municipal workers' union SAMWU insists labour brokers have to go.

"There's a serious problem with us wanting to retain any semblance of labour brokering. There's nothing that can't be done by directly employing workers that labour brokers provide other than being able to provide it at a lower rate to employers."

However, Riaan Ferreira of labour brokerage firm The Workforce Group later turned the tables on the industry's critics.

"There is [sic] many unions who operate illegally. There is [sic] instances where unions take from their members but do not deliver what they promised. If we apply these standards, should we not be starting to call for the banning of unions?"